

County nonprofits so that the foundation can help them thrive. Years after his passion for the nonprofit sector was sparked, Mr. Hajra continues to show his dedication to community through his work. Even as a busy CEO, Mr. Hajra teaches courses in nonprofit policy and management to the next generation of leaders at the Gerald R. Ford School for Public Policy. The impact of his work in our community will be felt for years to come.

Mr. Hajra was born and raised in Washtenaw County and continues to serve his hometown as a vice chair for the Council of Michigan Foundations and as a member of the Washtenaw County Board of Health. He is the recipient of two prestigious national awards: the Aspen Institute Fellowship for Emerging Nonprofit Leaders and the American Express NGen Fellowship. He resides in Ann Arbor with his wife Lisa and their three children.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Neel Hajra for an exemplary decade of dedicated service to the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation. He has effectively served the Ann Arbor community and has enhanced the nonprofit field in Washtenaw County and beyond. I join with Neel's family, friends, and colleagues in extending my best wishes to him in his new role as CEO of the Michigan Health Endowment Fund, where he will be improving the health of Michigan residents through grant awards and professional support.

TWENTY YEARS THROUGHOUT THE TEARS—IN MEMORY OF 9/11

HON. ANDREW R. GARBARINO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. GARBARINO. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD a poetic tribute in memory of the heroes and innocents lost on the 20th anniversary of 9/11 at The World Trade Center penned by Albert Carey Caswell.

TWENTY YEARS THROUGHOUT THE TEARS (by Albert Carey Caswell)

Twenty years throughout the tears
It was twenty years ago this day,
what happened here upon our hearts which weighs
All in our tears which flow each day
All in what our prayers have come to say
As we stop to ponder all the pain and woe it's made
The kind which only seems to grow only
Heaven can allay
When, we reunite with our loved ones one fine day
As on this day that we stop to remember,
what all happened here on the darkest of September's
When, we lost all of our loved ones as Towers fell down below
Watching all of those scenes from hell we'd come to know
As their most courageous hearts to new heights so rose
What seems like just yesterday,
still remains 20 years later all in our pain and woe
As we teach our children well about all of those
Those innocents and heroes of 9/11 who up to heaven rose
The Men and Women up in the Towers
The magnificent Fire Fighters and Police
who chose to fight in the darkest of hours

As it been twenty years of heartbreak and tears for all of us and our's
When, all of our loved ones went away
On bended knee throughout the years oh how for them we've prayed,
wishing but to with them one more day
When, something or song reminds us of them as the tears come our way
As we give thanks and praise to all of those heroes for what they gave
Against such evil wrought on that day
God bless those Heroes At Ground Zero heroically fought and stayed
Teaching us all about faith and glory,
teaching us all about their courage and selflessness as was their story
When, from out of all this pain and heartache came such Gotham Glory
As we watched Fire Fighters and Police,
running up the towers towards sure death in disbelief
To save precious lives all because of their selfless belief
Mothers, Fathers, Sisters, Brothers, Parents and Grandparents and friends,
we so loved in our hearts until the end
Watching all those innocents and heroes dying right before our eyes crying
And for all those children who had to grow up without moms or dads,
and lost the best friends they'll ever have
Not to watch them grow up to be everything they hoped to be
No one to read them stories at night to sleep
No one to explain or nurture them of the meaning of life so very deep
Or on Christmas or Hanukkah to share their love all in such joy so sweet
Or High School graduations,
or walk them down the aisle on wedding days in hearts to keep
Witnessing with them the miracle of birth
As a new generation comes into this world to ponder their true worth
And then now all the ones who are dying from that second wave
All because they chose to stay who dug in deep day after day
To find all of those precious bodies which lie beneath to place in a grave
To have a place to be with them and pray
When, all across our Nation came a call to arms
As all our fearless men and women of the Armed Forces ventured out into harm
Who gave their precious arms and legs,
and their lives in That Full Measure they so gave
For heaven so holds a place,
for all such selflessness souls of the human race.
And Hush little baby don't you cry,
one day up in heaven you will look into your Mother or Fathers eyes
Your parents have become Angels in The Army of Our Lord realize
And when you lay your heads down to rest,
they watch over you each night as you rest
And when you wake you can feel their Angel's breath
So have a good life for them and this our world you will bless
Sadly, time does not heal all
only up in heaven when we hear our loved ones voices call
As twenty years have flown on by,
as we keep asking that question why?
Knowing in our hearts it's the battle of GOOD vrs EVIL therein lies
As we watched the new towers up towards the heavens rise
To build this great memorial of water falls and reflecting pools
Etched upon it all their great names with hearts of love and courage full
To build upon the exact footprint of the towers we fought for this sacred jewel

So we would NEVER FORGET what happened,
on that day when hearts over evil ruled,
For a hallowed place to take all our children by the hand,
to teach them well all about and make them understand
All their precious souls so very bright
Goodness . . . Evil. . . Darkness . . . Light
Those brave hearts whose evil must fight
Who bring the light
As we remember that day when they taught us,
The Darkness is no match for The Light
And standing here this day,
we can but not help to feel all of their precious souls telling us to pray
For Mankind each day,
and NEVER FORGET WHAT HAPPENED ON THAT DAY
And to give thanks,
and remember what the gift of hope to world and America gave
And to try to live a life of courage, faith, hope, and love as they
By the grace of God we will join them up in heaven one fine day
As long as we carry them in our hearts they're not gone
As long as we remember them in our thoughts and prayers they live on
Even twenty years later on this morn
God Rest Their Souls,
and may we try to live lives as caring and selfless as all of those

COMMEMORATING OLYMPIC SILVER MEDALIST RICHARD TORREZ, JR.

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the accomplishments of Richard Torrez Jr., who earned a silver medal at the 2020 Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan.

Born on June 1, 1999, Mr. Torrez was raised in Tulare, California. He developed a love for boxing at a young age, following in the footsteps of his grandfather as well as his father Richard Torrez Sr., who competed in the 1984 Olympic Boxing Trials. As a child, Mr. Torrez was mesmerized by the Olympic games and dreamed of one day winning a medal for the United States.

Mr. Torrez grew up in the boxing gym his father owns and operates, Tulare Athletic Boxing Club. Learning discipline and commitment, he quickly became an elite boxer. Family always remained at his core. His father, to this day, remains one of his coaches.

Graduating from Mission Oak High School in 2017, Mr. Torrez was considered one of the most accomplished students of his graduating class. He was president of the school's chess club and involved in the robotics team. He was also a varsity member of the football, basketball, and track teams. Mr. Torrez capped off his high school career as valedictorian of his graduating class.

Fighting as a super heavyweight, Mr. Torrez placed fifth at the 2019 Elite World Championships, third at the 2019 Pan American Games, and first at the 2020 Boxam Tournament. He has successfully competed in many other tournaments as well, but reaching the Olympics have always been his biggest goal.

Mr. Torrez earned the right to represent the United States as a super heavyweight boxer at the 2020 Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan. His years of disciplined training were evident from his first fight, becoming the first American to vie for the super heavyweight gold medal since Riddick Bowe in 1988 at the Seoul Olympic Games. He made the United States proud by earning the silver medal.

Through his accomplishments, Mr. Torrez brought great pride to his hometown. Hundreds of people gathered in various places in Tulare to watch his fights. Signs supporting him were placed on most streets. He joins two other Tulare residents, Bob Mathias and Sim Inness, as the city's Olympic medalists.

All of America is proud of Richard Torrez Jr. His impact on U.S. boxing and his Central Valley community will be long remembered.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THOSE LOST
AND THOSE WHO GAVE AND
RISKED THEIR LIVES DURING
THE TERRORIST ATTACKS
LAUNCHED AGAINST THE
UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER
11, 2001

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as tomorrow marks the 20th anniversary of the attack launched against the United States on September 11, 2001, I rise to remember the victims of that horrific tragedy and those first-responders who risked, and in too many cases, sacrificed their lives to rescue the occupants of the besieged World Trade Center Towers. The morning of September 11, 2001 is, and will always be, a day like no other. It is a day all living Americans will remember because not since Pearl Harbor had there been such a dastardly and deadly attack on American soil.

Twenty years later, my heart still grieves for those who perished on flights United Airlines 93, American Airlines 77, American Airlines 11, and United Airlines 175. When the sun rose on the morning of September 11, none of us knew that it would end in an inferno in the magnificent World Trade Center Towers in New York City and the Pentagon and in the grassy fields of Shanksville, Pennsylvania. I stand here remembering those who still suffer, whose hearts still ache over the loss of so many innocent and interrupted lives.

My prayer is that for those who lost a father, a mother, a husband, a wife, a child, or a friend will in the days and years ahead take comfort in the certain knowledge that they have gone on to claim the greatest prize, a place in the Lord's loving arms. And down here on the ground, their memory will never die so long as any of the many of us who loved them lives. Madam Speaker, I watched as the first, and then the second, plane flew into the World Trade Center and was horrified when the buildings came down.

I was in The Capitol and saw the billowing smoke from the wreckage at the Pentagon and was told about the missing third plane that met its fiery end in the empty fields of Shanksville, Pennsylvania thanks to the selfless act of patriotic and heroic Americans. But

as hard as it is to believe, out of a tragedy so overwhelming and horrific, something good and great emerged in the aftermath of September 11. On that day there were no Republicans or Democrats. There were no Northerners or Southerners or West or East Coasters. We were not Red State or Blue State. We were all simply Americans.

On that day, we were united in our shock and anger and sadness. We were united in our resolve to defend our country and protect the freedoms that has made America the greatest country in the history of the world. Later that day, I joined scores of my colleagues on the East Steps of the Capitol where we sang "God Bless America"; lit candles, held hands, and prayed for our country and its leaders. In the days ahead I travelled to New York City to visit first responders and victims still recovering bodies and rescuing victims of the attacks and became a charter member of the Committee on Homeland Security to ensure that 9-11 never again happens in America. A united America can never be defeated as Operation Enduring Freedom showed.

The brave and valiant armed forces of the United States swiftly toppled the Taliban and liberated Afghanistan, making good on the pledge that "[w]hether the terrorists are brought to justice or justice is brought to the terrorists, justice will be done." And though he ran and hid for almost ten years, Osama bin Ladin could not hide forever and evade the long arm of American justice, which, under the leadership of President Barack Obama, caught up with him on May 2, 2011.

Madam Speaker, Americans take care of their own. Americans cherish freedom. Americans cherish liberty. And Americans want peace. Not just for themselves alone, but all persons in every corner of the globe. Madam Speaker, ensuring that America is safe and secure and protected from another attack on American soil is the least we owe to the heroic passengers on Flight 93 and to the brave firefighters of the FDNY and officers of the NYPD and the officers and civilians we lost in the Pentagon who gave faithful service to our nation.

Americans want their country to remain safe, free, and invulnerable to another cowardly attack like the one we witnessed twenty years ago tomorrow. We owe that much to the Americans who lost and gave their lives. And we have an obligation to them to ensure that this nation—and its 241 year record of, and experiment in, democracy—shall long endure and can and will withstand any threat from foreign adversaries or home-grown domestic terrorists.

This nation, as with any nation, suffers the conceit that it is immune from attacks from within on its democratic pillars at its peril, as we learned tragically on January 6, 2021. On that now unforgettable winter day, a violent mob invited by the then-president of the United States came to Washington, D.C. and laid siege to the Capitol for the avowed purpose of disrupting the constitutionally-mandated Joint Meeting of Congress to confirm the votes of presidential electors and announce publicly to the nation and the world the persons elected as President and Vice President of the United States.

As a result of the mayhem instigated by the 45th president, the congressional meeting was delayed for several hours, at least six persons

lost their lives as a result of the insurrection, more than 138 officers, 73 from the United States Capitol Police Department and 65 from the Metropolitan Police Department in Washington, sustained injuries during the attack on the Capitol Building, several of which required hospitalization and dozens, if not hundreds, of officers will suffer in years to come with post-traumatic stress disorder and cope with coronavirus infections contracted from the unmasked domestic terrorists and rioters who stormed the Capitol.

All of this is more than enough to sound the warning bell that we are now engaged, as President Lincoln observed at Gettysburg, in a great contest testing the proposition that this nation, or any nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all are created equal can long endure. This illustrates the reason why it is so vital that we enact legislation to strengthen and fortify the foundation of our democracy, which is of course the right to vote and to have that vote counted. To do that, we must enact without delay H.R. 4, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, and H.R. 1, the For The People Act. The right to vote is the sine qua non of democratic citizenship; without it every other right is fleeting and temporary.

That is why it is important to remember that the true and fundamental purpose of the Voting Rights Act was to give proof to the world that America was living the true meaning of its creed that all are created equal and doing so by protecting and empowering black Americans, who had for two centuries been exploited, victimized, persecuted, scapegoated, cheated, and treated with both benign and malignant neglect all because they were excluded from participating in the political process and the making of decisions that affected their lives.

It is interesting to note the absence of the current frantic efforts to disenfranchise black voters and other persons of color had no antecedent in 1994, when unexpectedly Republicans won the House majority for the first time in 40 years and majorities in several state legislatures across the country. Nor did it happen after the 2010 elections when Republicans recaptured the House majority after holding the White House for two consecutive terms. Madam Speaker, what accounts for the lack of vote suppression action then and the desperate anti-democratic actions we see now is clear and simple.

In 1994, 27 years ago, and as recent as 11 years ago in 2010, conservative Republicans still believed they could compete for democratic political power fair and square and that their ideals, ideas, principles, and values could attract majority support. But with the demographic changes and generational replacement taking place in America, the maturation and coming of age of the beneficiaries of the Great Society, and the rise of what social and political scientist call the "Obama Coalition," they no longer believe that. So they now hold it as an article of faith that they cannot win if they do not cheat; instead of taking their ideas and arguments to the voters and letting the voters pick their leaders, they have opted to change the rules so they can handpick the voters.

In The Flight 93 Election, the controversial, provocative, call to arms, conservative essayist Michael Anton spelled out clearly the perils the antidemocracy forces feel surround them: